

Berwick, will step down as Administrator of Medicare. It's a bad day for seniors.

But the Senate Republicans are happy because they believe that getting rid of Don will end the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. When the Senate Republicans blocked a vote on Dr. Berwick, they made it possible only for a recess appointment for 18 months. Why do the Republicans fear Dr. Berwick so much? Hard to say.

His career has been spent improving the quality of health care. He believes that we can have good quality health care at low cost. They're synonymous. He put patients first, believing in evidence-based medicine, and collaborates with others in the public good.

His sin was that he once said a nice word about the British health care system, and therefore he has to go.

Dr. Berwick's a great public servant, and the Republicans demonized him. Republicans have cynically prevented America's seniors from having the benefit of Dr. Berwick's vision and experience, and they ought to be ashamed of themselves.

We will do the Affordable Care Act in spite of the fact that Dr. Berwick is gone.

#### MIDDLE CLASS PAYROLL TAX CUT

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came down here on the floor, and I asked my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with us to move forward on a new middle class payroll tax cut, a tax cut that would put more money in families' pockets, creating more demand for our businesses, and resulting in more jobs.

But time and time again yesterday, even this morning we heard my friends on the other side of the aisle say the only obstacle to creating more jobs is regulations.

Unfortunately, the evidence does not support this. Last Saturday, November 26, was Small Business Saturday. I did my part by shopping all day in small businesses, and I talked to my small businesses, and I asked them what did they need from the Federal Government to help them in their businesses. And they told me, "We need customers. That's what will help our businesses. We need customers who have a little more money in their pockets this year to spend in our businesses."

It's not rocket science. And you know what? We don't have much time to wait. The longer we wait, the more likely it is that taxes will go up January 1. Let's work together to pass a new middle class payroll tax cut to put more money in the hands of Americans.

#### WORLD AIDS DAY

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today across the globe, people are marking World AIDS Day. It's an opportunity to reflect upon the progress we've made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, this pandemic, and to rededicate ourselves to ending the disease once and for all.

World AIDS Day is an occasion to remember friends, family members, loved ones, and millions of others lost to the disease. It is a solemn reminder of those still living with HIV/AIDS, whether in the cities of the United States, or the villages of Africa, Asia, or elsewhere. It is a reminder of the need to continue the fight to keep investing in research and medical advances, to stay focused on new treatments, care, prevention, and early intervention—a key element of quality of life; to expand housing opportunities to people with HIV/AIDS and end discrimination.

Yet it's also a reminder of how far we've traveled since the first World AIDS Day in 1988 and the first AIDS diagnosis, which we acknowledged recently on the 30-year anniversary of the first AIDS diagnosis.

In my hometown of San Francisco, we learned early on of the terrible toll of HIV/AIDS, the toll it could take on a community.

But that knowledge, as sad as it was, drove us to action, advocacy, and progress. Because we had suffered so much, we could also become a model for the country and indeed the world with our community-based solutions in regard to prevention, to care, and to research for a cure or vaccine.

This is something I'm very proud of, and really it found its way into legislation: the Ryan White Care Act; housing opportunities for people with HIV/AIDS; increased funding for NIH research; expanded investments in prevention, care, treatment; and an end to the ban on Federal funds for syringe exchange. Something very important if you're going to prevent AIDS.

Beyond our borders, we have extended care to millions in the developing world. Early on in our community, when we would have an AIDS mobilization day, right almost from the start—and Congresswoman WOOLSEY can attest to this—we understood if you're going to meet the challenge of HIV/AIDS at home, you have to have a mobilization that is global because AIDS knew no borders, but it had to be global.

So we would have these vigils of thousands of people walking in a great solemn way to talk about ending AIDS globally almost right from the start, although we were feeling it very personally, very locally in our community. Beyond our borders—that's why we extended care to millions in the developing world. We increased resources for PEPFAR and the Global Fund. And I commend President Bush for his leadership on PEPFAR and the commitment that he made there.

I congratulate President Obama for the statement that he made this morn-

ing which increased funding for the Ryan White Care Initiative that supports care provided by HIV medical clinics across the country and also added funding for the drug program initiative for people with HIV/AIDS, and his commitment to a new target of helping 6 million people around the world get treatment by the end of 2013. It's very important.

I commend Secretary Clinton for her strong leadership and her statement about ridding AIDS, especially among children, as soon as possible.

The challenges that we have faced over the years, some have disappeared. When I first came to Congress, I was sworn in in a special election, and they told me you're not allowed to speak. You just raise your hand and say, "Yes, I support and defend the Constitution."

But then the Speaker, Speaker Wright, said, "Would the gentle lady from California wish to address the House?" I had been told not to address the House, and if I did, to be very, very brief. So I stood up and acknowledged my father, Thomas D'Alesandro, had served as a Member of Congress, so he was on the floor of the Congress, and my family, and I thanked them all and my constituents. My one sentence was, "I came here to fight against HIV and AIDS." And that was about it.

Well, my colleagues who had told me to be brief then said, "Why would you even mention that?" This was 24 years ago. "Why would you even mention that? The first thing that you want to say to the Members of Congress when you get here is you're here to fight HIV/AIDS? Why did you say such a thing?"

I said, "Well, I said such a thing because that's why I came here."

But I never would have thought 24 years ago that we would project—really into another generation now—that we would not have a cure for HIV/AIDS. Never would have thought.

But in the meantime, we've reduced discrimination. We've expanded prevention, care, deepened our research, actually mobilized support. Some, like Bono on the outside, using his celebrity to attract attention to the issue. Public policy, whether it's President Bush, President Clinton. And now with this global initiative, and President Obama, we're at a completely different place than we were then when they wouldn't even have an AIDS ribbon in significant places in Washington, D.C. Today we all proudly wear that ribbon.

Again, it's a day of reminder, but it's also a day where we act upon those reminders of the work that needs to be done. And again, it's a global challenge, but it is a very personal issue.

The statistics are staggering, but we think of them one person at a time. And that is what we have to act upon. This Congress has been great on the subject. I hope that we will continue to honor our responsibility.

Again, on AIDS Day in San Francisco today we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of AIDS Memorial Grove.